located in West Bengal who had superannuated under VRS. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Industry and the administrative Ministry for appropriate action.

Basis of Allotment of Levy Sugar to Various States

2412. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government allots levy sugar to the States on the basis of the population of 1991 census; and

(b) if so, why Government of India cannot allot levy sugar on the basis of projected population of 1996, when the production of sugar is reported to be good?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite improvement in sugar production for the past two sugar seasons (October-September) i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96, the availability of levy sugar has yet to attain stability to the extent needed for allocating it on the basis of the projected population of 1996.

Identification of new potential coal mines for exploration

2413. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of coal mines presently under exploration in the country and how long the coal deposits in these mines are expected to last;

(b) whether Government have taken any action to identify new potential coal mines for exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the deposits are too deep to make mining un-economical;

(e) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the feasibility of direct gasification of coal; and

(f) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has recently carried out/been carrying out regional exploration for coal in 48 blocks/sectors/areas spread over 14 coalfields.

As on 1.1.1996, the coal reserves of India (down to a depth of 1200 metres) have been assessed by the Geological Survey of India at about 202 billion tonnes, out of which about 70.5 billion tonnes fall in the proved category. These coal reserves are likely to last over 100 years even at enhanced rate of production to meet the increased future demand. The quantity of coal mined every day during 1995-96 was 0.9 million tonne, on an average.

(d) The mining of deeper deposits which have to be necessarily worked by underground techniques, in most cases particularly, of the lower grades (D, E & F) under the current price sturcture of coal is proving to be uneconomical.

(e) and (f) A science and technology scheme of underground coal gasification was taken up in collaboration with the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republic in Merta Road lignite deposits of Rajasthan. The Soviet Experts concluded that the scheme was technologically feasible. However, since the area is solely dependent on acquifers for water source, it was not considered proper to disturb these acquifers in any way.

गुजरात में इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करने हेतु भूमि का अधिग्रहण

2414. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करने हेतु गुजरात के किसी जिले के अंतर्गत किसी क्षेत्र की पहचान की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुल कितनी भूमि अधिग्रहीत की गई है;

(ग) इससे कितने गांवों के प्रभावित होने की संभावना है;

(घ) विस्थापित व्यक्तियों के पुनर्वास के लिए क्या व्यवस्था की गई है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) जुलाई, 1991 में घोषित नई औद्योगिक नीति के अनुसार लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची से हटा दिया गया है और इसे अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग से भी छूट दे दी गई है। स्थान संबंधी कतिपय प्रतिबंधों को छोड़कर लोहे और इस्पात के उत्पादन/प्रक्रमण सुविधाओं की स्थापना हेतु औद्योगिक लाइसेंस की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अतः अपने वाणिज्यिक निर्णय के आधार पर उद्यमी देश में कहीं भी ऐसी सुविधाएं स्थापित करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं।

सितम्बर, 1992 मे लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग के उद्यमियों हेतु प्रकाशित दिशा निर्देशों में एक एकीकृत इस्पात संयंत्र की स्थापना करने हेतु गुजरात में पीपावाव नामक स्थान अभिज्ञात किया गया था। तथापि, उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार अब तक किसी भी उद्यमी ने इस्पात संयंत्र की स्थापना करने हेतु इस स्थान का चयन नहीं किया है।

(ख) से (ङ) उपरोक्त को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Decision to replace the existing System of printing maximum retail Prices on commodity packets

2415. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to replace the existing system of printing the maximum retail prices on commodity packets by printing only the ex-factory price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Packaged Commodities Rules, 1997 require the manufacturer/packer to declare the sale price of package in the form of maximum retail price (MRP). This is the maximum price at which the package can be sold. The actual sale price could be less than the MRP due to various factors. The Ministry is however exploring other alternatives for declaring the retail sale price on packages with a view to serving the consumers better.

Industry-Wise Per Day Average Wage Earnings of Workers

2416. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of the industry-wise (organised and unorganised sectors) and State-wise per day average wage/salary earnings of the workers and employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth in the automotive industry

2417. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the trend of growth in he automotive industry;

(b) whether this trend is in keeping with the trends observed in the developed and other comparable developing countries; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote this industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLIMARAN): (a) and (b) The automotive industry in the coun-